

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Asheville

Asheville Police Department



Asheville, NC (June 22, 2016): On Friday July 22, 2016 around 2:45 p.m. the Asheville Police Department made a final attempt to have a group of protesters voluntarily vacate the front lobby of the municipal building (100 Court Plaza). The attempt to occupy the main entrance of the building over the past 24 hours resulted in need to suspend the majority of public service from the building, hindering both fire and police department services.

Police representatives engaged in dialogue with the participants on multiple occasions throughout the day today and made multiple requests for voluntary compliance. Participants were provided with a handout outlining the statutory violations that the group was engaging in. They were encouraged to ask questions and voice concerns.

Around 2:50 p.m. a police representative made the final notification to the participants about the impending arrests. All participants were given a final opportunity to voluntarily leave the building and comply with the law. Several people decided to leave at that point. The remaining eight participants were peacefully arrested and charged in violation of [N.C. G.S. 14-132](#), a criminal statute that addresses disorderly conduct in public buildings and facilities.

###

For more information, please contact:

Christina Hallingse

Public Information Officer

Asheville Police Department

Office: (828) 259-5881

Cell: (828) 230-4471